

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Youth blanket city for Missions Now

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

More than 525 young people and their sponsors turned out March 28-30 to participate in a Missions Now weekend in the metro Jackson area, designed to spark enthusiasm for everyday missions among Mississippi Baptist youth.

"We don't know of another program like it anywhere; it is not modeled on anything else," said Mark Lott, a consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Men's Ministry Department and a member of the MBCB youth team that helped put together the weekend.

The Missions Now weekend was a joint venture of the Men's Ministry Department, the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), and the youth team. The weekend gave Mississippi Baptist teens the opportunity to be involved in a variety of missions opportunities, Lott said, including community service projects, acts of kindness, light construction/weatherization, and children's ministry.

"It is our hearts' desire that they would return home motivated to live a missions lifestyle in their communities," he said.

Some of the young people sorted and delivered donated stuffed animals to organizations that work with children in need. Others baked cookies for police departments and fire stations. Others helped weatherproof houses and still others roamed Jackson cleaning fire department vehicles.

"This is a blessing, a real blessing," said one elderly south Jackson resident as she watched the young people repair a balky door inside her home and install an energy efficient entrance door. "I don't know how I could have gotten this done. My heat bill was so high this winter."

"I usually think of missions as something people are doing overseas," observed a Mississippi Baptist youth participating in one of the weatherization projects. "I haven't really thought of missions in my home area, until now. I'm going to go home and ask my church to get involved in this kind of stuff in our community."



HELPING CHILDREN — Participants in the Missions Now weekend March 28-30 work to sort donated stuffed animals piled in a Sunday School room at the host church, Country Woods Church, Jackson. The stuffed animals were boxed and delivered to Jackson area organizations that reach out to needy children. The operation was carried out as one of the many mission projects that served as focal points during the weekend. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

"It was both amazing and overwhelming to see so many youth participating in a weekend of worship, hands-on ministry, and spiritual renewal," said Mississippi WMU executive director Kay Cassibry. "There were so many other places these kids could have been, yet because of their commitment to Christ they chose to be here. Our churches and adults need to wake up and realize that in just a few years these will be our mission leaders. We also owe a great deal of gratitude to their leaders, who are so

committed to working with these youth. I know it takes a lot of time and patience, but it sure pays off when you see them participating in events such as this."

David Michel, MBCB associate executive director for missions strategy, serves as supervisor of both the Men's Ministry Department and Mississippi WMU.

"We believe young people should be challenged to become 'Great Commissionaries,' as all church members should. The Missions Now weekend provided a short-term

opportunity for them to test their mission wings and discover the joy of Christian service. I am pleased to know the event was so well-received by so many Mississippi Baptist churches," Michel said.

Missions Now weekends are funded by the Mississippi Cooperative Program. Approximately 44 Mississippi Baptist churches were represented. For more information on Missions Now weekends, contact Lott at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3295 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 295. E-mail: mlott@mbcb.org.

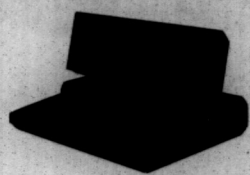


MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE — Perry Keyes (right) and George Evans of First Church, Boyle, carefully size a door for installation at one of the weatherization projects included in the March 28-30 Missions Now weekend in the Jackson metro area. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



SQUEAKY CLEAN — Youth members of Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point, visit Jackson Fire Department Station 11 and engage in one of the random "acts of kindness" that were an integral part of the Missions Now weekend March 28-30 in the Jackson metro area. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**
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A soldier-in-waiting grows up

I was born the son of a U.S. Army Ranger in mid-1955, a scant ten years after the end of World War II. Boys of my generation grew up listening to countless stories of wartime heroism under fire. I watched — nay, *absorbed* — all the old John Wayne and Dana Andrews war movies, and lionized my great-uncles who fought their way across Europe.

World War II defined a generation of Americans who are, in my opinion, the greatest generation since the Founding Fathers. They were determined and brave. They were noble and self-sacrificing. They were how I wanted to live my life.

Time passed. On my tenth birthday, I thrilled to the tales of Marine leathernecks beating back Viet Cong invaders. I owned just about every accessory that G.I. Joe would ever need to triumph over his evil enemies. I was a soldier-in-waiting.

Another ten years passed, during which I suffered one of the greatest disappointments of my young life. I was turned down for military service during the entrance physical due to poor eyesight and recent knee surgery to repair a high school football injury. Although military service was highly unpopular in many circles during the latter part of the Vietnam War, being classified 4-F was a bitter pill to swallow. It meant I would be denied the opportunity to serve my country in the way I had dreamed I would as a boy.

Ten years later, I found myself building a career and personal life as a single adult. My disappointment over being turned down for military service had faded, but I sometimes paused to contemplate what might have been if I had been able to prove my mettle under fire like my heroes from World War II.

However, before another ten years passed I underwent a complete change of attitude about war. My children had been born.

I no longer harbored my childhood fantasies of the glory of war. For the first time

in my life, I could picture in my mind the deeply personal toll of war.

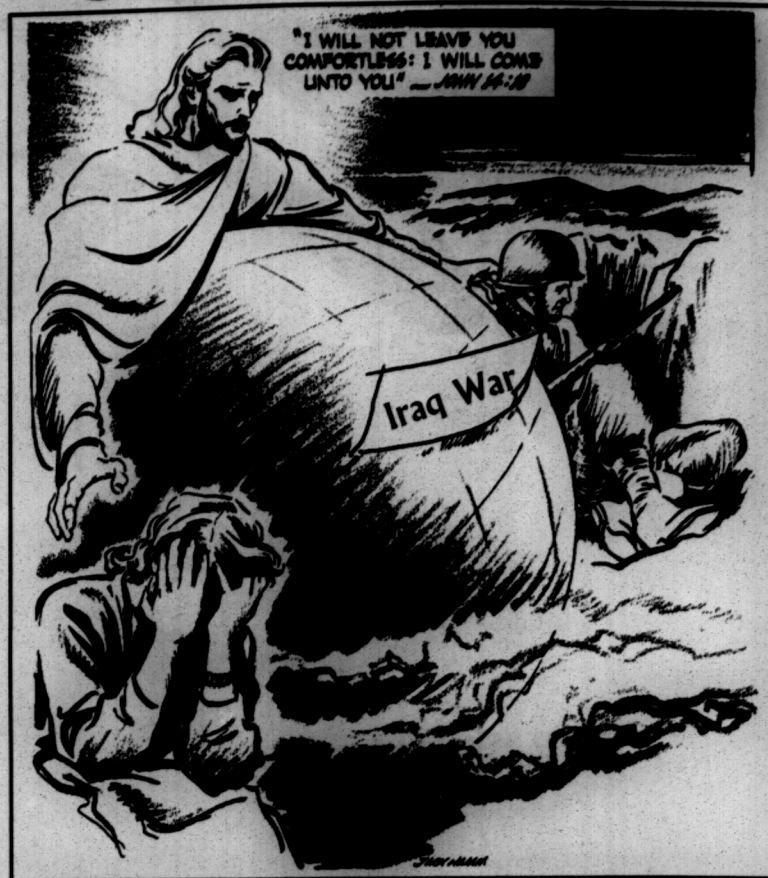
In the film clips of exhausted, hollow-eyed U.S. Marines departing Guadalcanal after months of hand-to-hand combat with a determined enemy, I saw my son's face under the helmets of those courageous warriors. Among the graphic photographs of lifeless bodies washing up on the shores of Normandy, I imagined the smiling boys I had taught the week before during Royal Ambassadors time.

It dawned on me that the stories of my great-uncles' combat exploits were always told to me by other relatives like their sister, my grandmother, because they seldom talked about it themselves. I think I know why.

War is not all it's cracked up to be in a youngster's foolish pretend games. Not too long ago, I watched on television as a war veteran angrily bristled at being called a hero and then explained as tears streamed down his face, "We left all the heroes over there." I finally, truly understood.

Bravery and heroism are bought at a terrible price, and far too many good people have had to pay the price. Human nature being what it is, there will always be a need for such people, and it will always be a waste to sacrifice them in war.

Yet we are free today because so many of them were willing to pay that price on behalf of their countrymen — and even for people in foreign lands they never even met. We are learning that lesson all over again, literally at this moment, in Iraq.



Among the freedoms which the warriors' sacrifice has bought America is the freedom to worship as we choose, a right denied to a majority of the human beings alive today. We can be free to worship and to spread the Good News that Jesus saves, because they have made it safe to us to do so.

Far too many of them died to make it so. They sacrificed all their tomorrows so we could have today. To pause one or two days each year is not enough to honor them. We should offer a daily prayer for their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their families.

We owe them so much.

Based on an editorial that originally appeared in *The Baptist Record* on May 22, 1996.

The identical camouflage uniforms being paraded across the television screen every evening during the nightly news don't fool me.

Uncle Sam may require our service men and women to all dress the same, but I know that beneath those greens, tans, and browns, there are individuals who are somebody's sons or daughters. Many are mommies and daddies to little boys and girls.

Unfortunately, I also know that many of these young people may not come home from the impending battle that lies ahead as they protect our nation's freedom and our way of life.

I know this because I've stood over too many caskets and preached too many funerals for fallen soldiers who were members of congregations I served. I'll never forget them.

There was the young man I led to the Lord and baptized. He was very active in our youth group and was killed in Vietnam. He was the only member of his family who was saved.

Another young man in a church I served was a great football player and was popular in school. He wound up in Vietnam and also died there.

GUEST OPINION:



Uniforms can't mask individuals

By Jimmy Draper, president
Lifeway Christian Resources, Nashville

He walked with the Lord and was part of a strong Christian family. His dad was a deacon in the church.

I'll never forget standing with the wife of another man in our church before his memorial service in a packed auditorium. He was shot down from the skies above Vietnam. "I'm looking forward to today more than any day in my life, including my wedding day," she said. "If just one person could be saved, then Ed's death would be worth it."

Seven people came to Christ that day.

I mention these special people because these are sobering days for our nation. When we consider that more than 250,000 of our fellow Americans have

put themselves in harm's way to protect us, it awakens a sense of gratitude for how God has truly blessed the United States throughout its history. We are indebted to all those who serve and who have served to make our nation strong.

Let's not forget their families. These families, who anxiously wait for their loved ones to return, also pay for the commitment to our national ideals. We must remember them as well.

We pray for peace, but understand that sometimes peace comes with a price tag. It cost Jesus His life to bring us the only lasting peace there is.

In these tumultuous times, Christians must be bold to give

an account for their peacefulness (1 Peter 3:15) and quick to comfort those around them. This includes reaching out to the families of our military personnel as well as children who are fearful and feel insecure because they don't understand the days' events.

It is with a desire to equip Christians for these ministry opportunities that a Nations in Conflict area of the lifeway.com website was developed to provide a diversity of resources to help churches and individuals move to a deeper level of service to others.

The practical information found there provides a number of biblical solutions designed to meet the spiritual challenges we as a nation currently face. This site is a work in progress, so come back often for additional ministry ideas.

Peter writes, "Get your minds ready for action" (1 Peter 1:15). The apostle Paul writes, "Proclaim the message" (2 Timothy 4:2).

During these days, let's take that biblical advice and use the gifts we've been given "to serve others as good managers of the varied grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

BP writer reports from U.S. aircraft carrier

EDITOR'S NOTE: The North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Union University, and Baptist Press have partnered to deploy a reporting team to the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) on station in the eastern Mediterranean. Writer Sara Horn and photographer Jim Veneman will be documenting the intersection of faith and patriotism aboard the supercarrier.

THURSDAY, 3/20, 4:40 P.M.

We've been flying now for almost 15 hours with a brief layover in Detroit and Amsterdam. The hardest leg of the journey was completed on the flight across the Atlantic.

Once we complete the flight leg we're on right now, we'll pick up our luggage, which hopefully will have arrived, grab a taxi and make our way

nation of nerves and excitement but I haven't had much of an appetite anyway.

Everywhere we walked through the airport, people sat quietly watching reports on CNN of the latest news for Iraq. Our forces are in place. The war has begun.

Since leaving America, it's amazing and in a way refreshing to see so many cultures and hear so many languages. On

singing. It was the father trying to calm his little baby girl. While waiting to board for the final flight in our journey to the Gulf, I watched an English couple with two little boys patiently answering their four-year-old's questions. I saw a Dutch family with their young



Horn

It's a very surreal feeling to be on board this ship. In one way, we're not directly involved with what we're seeing in the news. The networks are covering mostly land-based troops. In another way, however, we most certainly are.

As Americans, there are definitely pieces of us that hurt as we hear reports of American soldiers killed. Reports of Americans protesting the war — the most on record and largest in New York — really bothers me. Our troops need all the

singing in their native language as they rode up the escalator to their gate.

No matter where you are in the world, children will be children and parents all have the same hopes and dreams for their offspring. I wonder about the Iraqi parents tonight worried for the safety of their children, as well as the parents of U.S. soldiers, now so dangerously far from home.

I pray the mission of this war will be successful and quick and that our troops will stay safe.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, NOON

Today is our second full day on the ship. We are waiting in the ship's TV studio for an escort to take us to the flight deck for some photo opportunities of launches for training exercises.

The sea is a little fiercer today and perhaps it's a combination of lack of sleep (less than four hours a night so far) and raw nerves, but the rolling of the ship this morning is starting to get to me. CNN and images of what continues to happen for good and for bad is consistently piped into whatever compartment we're in.

Looking back

10 years ago

The Mississippi River Ministry will soon be inaugurated in Greenville at a worship service and Gospel Fest/Health Fair. Twenty-two counties along the Mississippi River will be the focus of ministry projects supported by volunteers.

20 years ago

President Reagan pledges more vigorous enforcement of anti-pornography laws at a meeting with two dozen religious leaders who are crusading against pornography and obscenity. The group includes Southern Baptists Adrian Rogers and Edward E. McAteer.

50 years ago

Baptist Record editor A. L. Goodrich encourages readers to "not forget front-line soldiers. ...we should write the neglected, lonely, harassed, endangered soldiers in Korea." He suggests that every church send the Baptist Record to their members who are in service.



ON DECK — Baptist Press reporter Sara Horn, wearing the full protective gear of an on-duty U.S. sailor, takes in the never-ending activity on the deck of the USS Harry S. Truman in the Mediterranean Sea. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

to the hotel. We still have to touch base with our ship's contact in order to make sure everything is squared away for our rendezvous with a military transport tomorrow.

I am ready for the hotel. I definitely need a shower and a change of clothes. I haven't eaten much since we left Nashville. I guess it's a combi-

our second leg, I watched a Muslim couple, the woman donned in the traditional head covering, trying desperately to soothe their crying baby. The woman walked up and down the aisles, rocking the baby, and the father took turns as well.

As the early morning sun peeked in through the plane windows, I woke to loud

The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee has approved a plan to investigate a possible anthrax scare at the SBC Building in Nashville. The letter, dated March 18, was sent to the SBC Building's vice president for operations and finance, who is the SBC Executive Committee. The letter was then delivered to the appropriate office where an employee began opening it with a letter opener. When a white powdery substance emerged from the envelope, the employee immediately placed both the letter and the opener in a plastic Ziploc bag provided at her desk for suspect mail according to procedure, Wilkerson said. Within minutes, the hazardous materials team arrived. Two of the team members suited up with the proper equipment, entered the office and placed the Ziploc bag in their isolation equipment, Wilkerson said. They then monitored the office and followed decontamination procedures as a precaution. There was no evidence that any of the powder got on the employee. The incident was turned over to the proper authorities, and lab test results on the suspicious substance are expected within three to four days. After the most recent anthrax scare at the SBC Building, Wilkerson said he urges Southern Baptist churches and entities to examine their policies, putting in place those procedures that would ensure the absolute safety of employees who handle packages and equipment entering the buildings.



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BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
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Nominations to MBC posts solicited

The Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) Committee on Nominations will begin meeting soon to review trustee/board member positions for the MBC boards and commissions for the year 2004.

According to Gary Richardson, chairman of the committee and pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford, a limited number of vacancies will be filled on the following boards and commissions:

- ◆ Bd. of Ministerial Education
- ◆ Christian Action Comm
- ◆ Education Commission
- ◆ Historical Commission
- ◆ Baptist Children's Village
- ◆ Baptist Health Systems, Inc., of Jackson
- ◆ Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., of Memphis
- ◆ Blue Mountain College
- ◆ Mississippi College
- ◆ William Carey College
- ◆ Mississippi Baptist Conv. Bd.

The Committee on Nominations will work in conjunction with the heads of the institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by messengers to the MBC 2003 annual meeting on October 28-29 at First Church, Jackson.

Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Executive Administration, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbox@mbcb.org.

Completed nomination forms will be accepted by first-class mail only, at the above address. All nomination forms must be received by the deadline of May 30.

IMB to 're-engineer' relations with churches

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The decision to obey God's call to overseas service is not made on the basis of comfort and security, International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin told 98 new missionaries during a March 15 service at First Concord Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

"God has placed your people in your heart. Jesus died for them and they will never know unless someone goes to tell them," Rankin said. "You are the one. You did not simply decide being a missionary would be a fascinating career, an opportunity to travel and see the world. You weren't motivated by prospects for financial gain and an affluent lifestyle."

"What is it that compels you to go? It is a deep conviction that God has called you. You have the privilege of being the one to carry the Gospel to those who need it so desperately."

The new workers were the second-largest group in Southern Baptist history. The largest group — 124 missionaries appointed — was in November 2001, just

the board is moving to "re-engineer" the way it relates to Southern Baptists, he said.

"The task of the International Mission Board is not only about what happens overseas," Rankin said. "As a denominational missions agency, we have a responsibility to our Southern Baptist constituency to lead and assist them in fulfilling God's mission."

"What is being done overseas represents only a miniscule portion of Southern Baptist potential in personnel and resources. It is our vision to see the massive resources with which God has blessed Southern Baptists to be channeled to impact a lost world."

CREATING PASSION

Accomplishing that requires a radical shift from promoting programs to creating passion, Rankin said.

"Mobilizing Southern Baptists will not happen by continuing our traditional program promotions but by creating a passion for God and his heart for the nations. It will happen only as we personalize missions through opportunities for direct involvement and ownership of the task. And it must take the form of partnership with Southern Baptists at every level rather than trying to maintain exclusive control that restricts and alienates."

When a congregation is filled with passion for God's mission, they move into a new dimension of strategic partnership and support for missions, Rankin said.

OWNING THE MISSION

The factor that transforms a church from generous giving to strategic involvement and sacrificial support is catching God's heart for the nations through direct personal involvement, Rankin said.

What has been the IMB's mission becomes their mission, and the agency becomes a facilitator rather than a middleman.

"We know that churches are no longer interested in channeling their money through a middle man without direct ownership in where it goes and what it does," he said. "We know that churches and other partners want personalized, customized attention and service focused on their needs, their desires and their agenda."

The question is how to customize services to 42,000 churches, 1,200 associations, 40 state conventions, and scores of other organizations without a massive multiplication of staff, products and promotions, Rankin said.

"The challenge requires us to evaluate what we are currently doing and re-engineer how we relate to our constituency and communicate our message," he said.

MAKING CHANGES

Research conducted in the Atlanta area in 2002 yielded insights that led the board to create mobilization teams to give per-



John Weaver



Pamela Weaver

sonal attention to churches, associations, state conventions and others who want to be more involved in completing God's mission overseas, Rankin said.

Another initiative focuses on discovering ways to establish personal relationships between churches and missionaries, Rankin explained.

"We must enable our missionaries to build relationships and create accountability with churches," he said. "They need to enlist prayer support, develop covenant relationships of adoption and accountability, and involve churches in growing partnerships and support."

Among the other initiatives is an effort to help people who find themselves stuck in "phone mail jail" — unable to get a real, live person on the phone to answer their questions when they call the board, Rankin said.

"We receive more than one million phone calls a year, plus millions of e-mail messages and Internet contacts. These inquiries come to dozens of different points in our organization," Rankin said. "It is not uncommon for calls to be misdirected or for a caller to be unable to connect with a live voice. We are migrating these services to a contact center, where trained experts will be able to handle any and every question."

PASSION FOR GOD'S GLORY

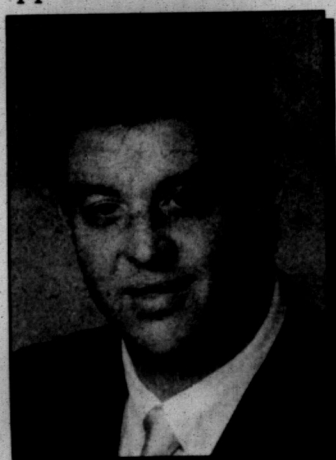
Board leaders are excited about the powerful way God is moving through Southern Baptist missionaries and their coworkers, but they are not motivated by the numbers, Rankin said.

"We are not driven by pride in growth and accomplishments," he said. "We do not gauge the success of our mission efforts by impersonal and meaningless data."

"Our passion is the glory of God among the nations, and our only desire is penetrating the lostness of our world in bringing all the peoples to saving faith in Jesus Christ."

"We want to see every Southern Baptist and every Southern Baptist church rise up and play their part in fulfilling Christ's command to make disciples of all the peoples."

To learn more about how IMB can help your church mobilize to complete the Great Commission, contact the Church Services Team by calling toll-free (877) 462-4721 or e-mailing globalpriority@imb.org.



Eric Perkins



Lacey Perkins

weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

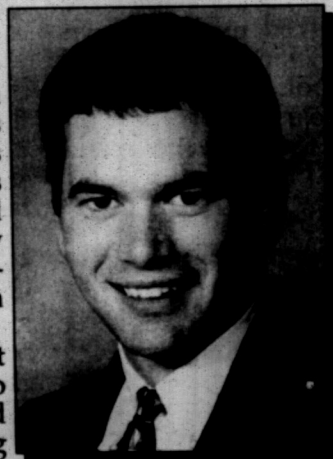
Three couples with Mississippi connections were among those appointed in Knoxville:

• James Eric and Lacey Linnette Perkins of Belden will serve in Eastern South America as a church planter and a community and home outreach worker, respectively. He has served as minister to students at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, and also as minister of youth, recreation, students, and outreach at various churches in Texas and Louisiana. They consider Harrisburg Church their home church, and have three children.

• Peter Lamar and Shauna Lee Sims Swann of Mill Valley, Calif., will serve in Eastern Africa as strategy coordinators. He holds degrees from The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. She holds degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi, the College of Marin in Kentfield, Calif., and San Francisco State University.

• John Everette and Pamela Annette Torrence Weaver of Olive Branch will serve in Eastern South America as a church planter and a community and home outreach worker, respectively. He has served as associate pastor of New Prospect Church in Olive Branch, and holds degrees from Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mo.; Missouri College in St. Louis, Mo.; and Mid-America Seminary in Germantown, Tenn. They have five children.

At the IMB trustees meeting held March 13-15 in Knoxville in conjunction with the appointment service, Rankin said God is at work in amazing ways through Southern Baptist missionaries and their coworkers around the world, but IMB also wants every Southern Baptist church to experience firsthand the thrill of personal missions involvement. After five years of study and research,



Peter Swann



Shauna Swann

So. Baptist among first prisoners of war

WICHITA, Kan. (BP) — A Southern Baptist church in Kansas is rallying to support the family of American prisoner of war (POW) Patrick Miller whose wife is a longtime member of the church.

Olivet Church in Wichita is reaching out to Miller's wife Jessa and their two young children following the capture of her husband by Iraqis during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Miller, age 23, and four other soldiers being held captive are members of the Army's 507th Maintenance Company. They became the war's first American POWs when their crew apparently took a wrong turn during the American military's rapid advancement through the Iraqi desert and were subsequently ambushed by local forces.

Other members of the maintenance company were presumed dead after Iraqi television displayed Miller, the other four POWs, and what appeared to be bodies of American servicemen. The exhibition was immediately criticized as a violation of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of military personnel in wartime.

Miller and his wife were married at Olivet Church about a year ago. The church's pastor, Ron Pracht, performed the ceremony and provided the couple's marriage counseling, during which Miller accepted Christ.

Shortly after the marriage, Miller and

his wife left for Fort Bliss, Texas, where the 507th Maintenance — part of the 111th Air Defense Artillery Brigade — is stationed.

Jessa returned to the Kansas area after her husband was deployed. Pracht said

he has talked to her since the news broke.

"We're praying with them [Jessa and her family]," Pracht told Baptist Press. "Our women's teams are ready to provide meals. [Jessa] is just real reticent to that. She's still pretty numb."

Pracht said he learned of the news Sunday night, but "didn't put two and two together until Monday morning."

He has since sent out a prayer request e-mail to church members. He believes Miller's family will receive more comfort in the Wichita area than they would have by staying in Texas. "She has a lot of support around here," Pracht said, adding that one of Jessa's cousins serves as the church's administrative assistant.

Providentially, the church is going through a study of the "one another" sayings of the New Testament, such as encourage one another, comfort one another and serve one another.

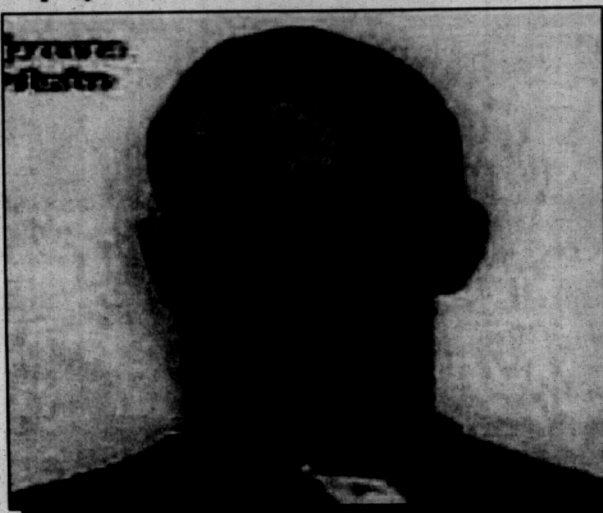
In addition to Miller's safe return, Pracht requested prayer for the church to receive "wisdom in serving Jessa [and] letting her experience God's love."

Miller grew up in Valley Center, a town of 5,000 people a few miles north of Wichita. Several churches came together March 24 at a local United Methodist Church to pray for Miller.

Bobby Massey, the pastor of Valley Center Assembly of God, has known Miller for some 10 years. He said Miller visited his church as a youth.

"Obviously, all the churches in town have him on their prayer chain," Massey told Baptist Press.

Yellow ribbons, he said, are "all around town."



Miller

THE IMPORTANCE OF TODAY'S SENIOR ADULTS

Think about this — 50% of all the people who have ever lived are over the age of 65 and are alive today. Granted, the population of the earth is larger than it has ever been, and that would tend to distort the number; yet, people are living longer today than ever before. They are also living better than ever before.

The percentage does not seem to be even thinking about going the other way. We just keep living longer. Now, don't think this fact has gone unnoticed by a lot of people. The business world has taken note of it and they have made plans to capitalize on it. Why do you think that, almost overnight, drug stores seem to pop up out of no where on every other corner in towns across America? They know that as the baby boomer population moves into the golden years, they will be spending "green" on medicine.

Also, more and more stores and restaurants across our land want you to be aware that they give "senior citizen" discounts. Of course, a discount may be nice, but they are not just being nice — they are catering to an ever-growing crowd with whom they want to do business.

Just think about the unending bombardment in advertisements trying to sell pills, or lotions, or grease, or coloring, or braces that will keep you together and make you look younger. All that stuff is made not for the teenage population but for an aging population that is getting larger and larger in numbers.

While business, government, and social scientists are all thinking about this growing part of the populace, we need to ask the question, "What is the church doing?" Among our senior adults there are great needs, but at the same time there are equally



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

great opportunities, tremendous energies and abundant resources which can be channeled into Kingdom building and life rewarding experiences. Consider these thoughts on what some churches are doing:

- Some churches ignore them. It is a sad fact that some churches are like much of the population — they simply ignore senior adults. It is not that they do not see them or know that they are there. Instead, they just simply treat them as though they are not all that important and will more than likely not be around very long.

Then again, some people see them as a nuisance and just try to overlook them or look through them. We sometimes talk about seniors going through their second childhood. Well, they may be, but it isn't because of the way they act, it's because of the way we treat them! Just the other day, I

walk up and the workers would take their orders, still paying no attention to the little girl standing there. Though I did not know the youngster, I walked up to the counter and one of the workers asked if they could help me. I said, "No, you cannot help me, but you could help..." and I pointed to the little girl. Then the worker looked down at the little girl and asked, "What do you need?" and she held up her cup. The workers were not being mean to the child; instead, they were just ignoring her existence. What a tragedy that would be if we are guilty of the same thing with our older folks! While that may be true in some places, I'm sure it is not the norm.

- Many of our churches are in a position to explore. These churches have an "open-door," or better stated, an "open-heart" policy that seeks ways to enable and encourage opportunities of service as well as fulfilling

responsibilities to meet needs. Our seniors can do almost anything that anybody else can do and in many cases, do an even better job. If, for a fleeting moment, you think that some of our older folks are grumpy or ill tempered, just remember that some of our younger adults, teenagers, and children are that way also. Spend some time exploring the possibilities of ways God could use this growing army of mature saints.

- There are some churches that implore. Here is a final thought on what churches are doing. They recognize that there are people who come to their final years in the same condition that they were in during their early years. They needed a Savior then and rejected Him, and they still need a Savior now. It is an interesting thing to realize that the older we get, the more thoughtful we often become about spiritual things and about our own mortality. If a person is 17 and does not know Jesus, he is lost and doomed. If a person is 77 and does not know Jesus, he is in the same condition. Both of these folks need Jesus!

One of the best opportunities that we may ever have to witness would be to someone who is in the latter years of their life. Of course, I have had senior adults who were not Christians reject my presentation of the Gospel. On the other hand, I have also had that experience with every other age group. The glorious reality is that I have also seen senior adults saved — men and women who have come to their sunset years and met the Son of God!



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the
following prayer with
God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for
my sins and freedom
from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and
rose from the grave to forgive
my sins and to restore my
relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a
loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my
Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in his name
(John 1:12).

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact
a local Baptist church for
spiritual guidance.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Concord Church, Ackerman, recently completed a building renovation. A dedication service will be held April 6 at 11 a.m. and open house will be from 2-4 p.m. Roger Griffith is pastor.

Macedonia Church, Myrtle, recently donated a van to the Union County Baptist Association. The van can be used in many ways including the Association's area Hispanic ministry. Pictured (from left) are Larry McQuary, Homer Trevino, and Johnny Garrison.



McQuary, Trevino, & Garrison

Paul Truitt Memorial Church, Pearl, will hold Easter services including drama, choir specials, and relevant messages April 13-20. For more information, call (601) 939-2975.

The **GAs of Branch Church, Morton**, held a bake sale in February to raise money for church camp. They raised enough to send two girls to camp. Pictured (from left) Brittany Tagert, Jessica Tagert, Kayla Stevenson, Dana Nelson, Casey Torrence, and Whitney Measells.

Cedarview, Olive Branch, will hold a community sing on April 19 at 6 p.m. featuring the

Geslin Brothers. Area musicians are invited to participate.

First Baptist, Polkville, held a noteburning ceremony on Dec. 29 to celebrate the payment in full of the Family Life Building. Pictured are all ordained deacons in the church. Max Price, pastor, is holding the note.

Music evangelist, **Steve Walker, Pinola**, will be in concert April 6 at 6:50 p.m. at Goodwater Church, Magee. Admission is free. An offering will be received for Steve Walker Music Ministries. For more information, call (601) 849-2245 or (601) 847-4375.

First Church, Crystal Springs, will host a music reading workshop featuring composer Paul Jackson, Little Rock, on April 14 at 6 p.m. The cost is \$19.95. For more information, call (601) 892-1149.

Friendship East Church, Charleston, will hold a sanctuary dedication on April 27. Terry Tribble, Shady Grove, will bring the morning message following will a pot luck lunch and dedication services. J.G. Thomas is pastor.

Crossgates Church, Brandon, will hold Coffee House @ the Net on April 12 from 8-11 p.m. Lost will be in concert and admission is free. There will be games, pool, basketball, arcade, air hockey, ping pong, and snacks. This event is sponsored by The Seattle Drip.



First Church Polkville Noteburning, Polkville

Professional Preschool/Children's Ministers Retreat will be held May 1 and 2 at Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa, Clinton. Registration is \$20 by April 15. For more information, call (601) 292-3222.

Zion Hill Church, Wesson, will hold a Rummage Sale for

missions on April 4 and 5 beginning at 7 a.m. There will also be a Craft Fair and Bake Sale.

Visit us on the web at:
www.mbecb.org



GAs of Branch Church, Morton



Pictured from left are Margaret Armstrong, director of Volunteer Services; Beverly Gilbert, auxiliary president; Bobbie Ware, director of Baptist's Cancer Services; Jay Chance, president of The TRUST; Jerry Cotton, executive vice president, Baptist Health Systems; Dot Terry, auxiliary past president; and Jean Greene, auxiliary liaison to The TRUST.

Volunteers Recognized for Cancer Center Fundraising Efforts

Baptist Health Systems recently held a dedication ceremony in the new Hederman Cancer Center, hosted by The TRUST, the Foundation for Baptist. The ceremony recognized the Baptist auxiliary's generous gift to fund the second floor lobby and the prayer room in the new cancer center. The auxiliary volunteers raised the \$110,000 through the sale of flowers and jewelry.

For more information on becoming a Baptist volunteer, call (601) 968-1210.

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Furnishings &
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MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

TRACE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH accepting resumes for bi-vocational minister of music. Forward resumes to search committee, P.O. Box 2726, Ridgeland, MS 39158-2726.
ACKERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH, Ackerman, Miss. is currently seeking a summer youth director. Please send resumes c/o personnel committee, Ackerman Baptist Church, P.O. Box 277, Ackerman, MS 39735

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Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by Great Nation Investment Corp.

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step.
Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622
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www.tri-statevanbus.com

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 3, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



GA Mother/ Daughter Overnight

April 11-12, 2003
Camp Garaywa
(for girls
grades 1-6)

Cost: \$33 per person
(includes meals, lodging,
insurance and program fees)

The registration deadline is March 28, 2003. For more information, contact the WMU Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson.

Perry Association Missions Blitz June 23-28

- **WHO?** Mission volunteers of all ages (adult, collegiate, youth, children).
- **WHAT?** A Missions Blitz sponsored by the Perry Association in partnership with Mississippi WMU. During this week volunteers will participate in a variety of ministry projects (ex: VBS, BYBC, prayerwalking, door-to-door outreach, block parties, light construction, and "acts of kindness" such as oil changes, apartment cleanup, and community cleanup).
There will be a *Family Missions* emphasis on Saturday, June 28. Parents, grandparents, and etc.... are encouraged to participate with their children/grandchildren in family projects on Saturday.
- **WHEN?** The Missions Blitz begins on Sunday and concludes on Saturday. The *Family Missions* emphasis will take place on Saturday, June 28.
- **WHERE?** Ministry projects will be held all over the Perry County area.
- **HOW much does it COST?** A \$25 per person ministry fee with a maximum \$50 per family. Volunteers will provide their own housing, meals, and transportation. (Some meals will be provided and housing options are listed in the registration packet.) Participants volunteering only during the *Family Missions* emphasis on Saturday will pay \$5 per person or a maximum of \$15 per family (this includes lunch).
- **HOW to Register?** To receive a registration packet with more information, please contact the Mississippi WMU office at 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail tanderson@mbcb.org. The **DEADLINE to register is June 6**. You may contact the on-site coordinator, Buddy Keyes, at FBC, Richton (601-788-9607).

Reaching Families...Changing Lives

featuring
Richard
Leach



Examine the families around you.
You won't have to look too far to see that there
are families who are hurting, lonely, and
feeling unloved. They are looking for a touch ...

... a touch that could
have Everlasting Consequences.

Your Sunday School class may be the vessel that
God uses to reach families in your community.

April 22 • FBC, Biloxi
April 24 • FBC, Grenada
6:30-8:30 p.m.

This conference is designed for pastors, staff, Sunday School directors, and all church leadership who have an interest in reaching others for Christ. For more information, call the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson.

Singles RETREATS CONCURRENT

"Magnifying the Oneness in Jesus"
May 24-26, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Conferences; Concert by Lion's Roar Band, Biloxi;
Speakers: Bettye Coward, Blue Mountain College and
Randy Davis, Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham;
and much more!

"Fun Time Under the Son"
(for 20 somethings)

May 24-26, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Break-Out times; praise service w/Ninth Hour Band;
Special guest, Stacy Andrews, Madison

For info: Contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry
Dept. at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3283

25th Anniversary Family Week at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Events:

- Ice cream/watermelon fellowships
- Night swimming
- Bar-b-que cookout
- Wednesday afternoon festival with space walks, super slide, clowns and much more fun
- Thursday FREE DAY

Tues., July 1 thru Sat., July 5

Registration - 2 p.m.
Tuesday

Adjourn - 9 a.m.
Saturday

Pastor for the week:
Eric Thomas
First Baptist Church, Vicksburg

Special Guests:

- Robert Stevens & Lion's Roar Band (10 members), Biloxi
- Gospel Singing
- Clowns/Patriotic Program by Jan Halford, Jackson, and Gwen Williams, "Miss Chocolate" New Orleans

For more information call Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at 228-452-7261.
or the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3283.

SUPER SUMMER MISSISSIPPI 2003 July 14 - 18

featuring



Gregg Matte
Worship Leader



Dave Hunt & Band
Music Leaders

What is Super Summer?

Super Summer Mississippi is for the student who is a mature and responsible leader growing in their relationship to Christ. Students attending Super Summer spend approximately 20 hours in discipleship and evangelism training. Students are challenged and equipped to utilize their faith to penetrate their culture for Christ in a creative and effective way. Don't miss out on an opportunity to be part of Super Summer 2003 at Mississippi College.

For info, contact the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3283.

2003

Preaching & Worship Conference

Featured Presenters:

Waylon Bailey
& Bill Clark

For more info, call the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department at
1-800-748-1651 or
in Jackson, 601-292-3305,
or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.

With All My Heart

You are invited to the

Sisters Who Care House Party

This house party is for all women ... bring a sister that's a different culture from you.

May 23-24, 2003 • Patterson Place
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Becky Brown
Worship Leader

Carol Mickel will share her heart
about her recent mission trips.

For more info, call the WMU Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 601-968-3800.

Sisters Who Care House Party Registration DEADLINE - MAY 14

Cost per person for lodging, meals & registration:

Patterson Place Lodging: 1 @ \$35, 2 @ \$30, 3 @ \$25, 4 @ \$20 per person

Meals: \$7 Fri. dinner, \$5 Sat. breakfast, \$6 Sat. lunch per person

Registration: \$5 per person

Day rate for Saturday including meals: \$16 per person

Church _____ Association _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
Contact Person _____ Phone _____
Number of Women: _____ X cost per person = Total enclosed \$ _____

MAIL TO "SISTERS WHO CARE HOUSE PARTY"
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



For more information, contact the MBCB Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3267.

Worship Service

April 27

FBC

Brookhaven

6 p.m.

"The Proof is in the Pudding" MISSISSIPPI HOSPITALITY ROOM

Beth Moore, Living Proof Live, Tupelo, June 6-7

If you and/or your women's group would like to participate by bringing pudding, cakes, cookies, candy, etc., plus the recipe cards to the Hospitality Room, please E-mail: KBurns@mbcb.org, Fax 601-714-7434, or mail: your name, association/church address, your E-mail and phone number to: "The Proof is in the Pudding," WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Bivocational Pastor and Smaller Church Membership

(less than 175 in Sunday School enrollment)

Sunday School Director Training Conference



Sunday School Directors

*Sunday School for the Smaller
Membership Church...Learning the
Essentials of Sunday School Growth*

Bivocational Pastors

*Help and Encouragement
for the Double-Duty Pastor*

For more info, contact the
Pastor/Leadership Department at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305

Conference Leadership

John Clendinning

MBCB Sunday School Department

Matt Buckles

*MBCB Pastor/Leadership
Development Department*

Dale Holloway

*NAMB Regional Bivocational
Consultant*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2003
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COLUMBUS
(For directions call 662-328-3915)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NATCHEZ
(For directions call 601-442-1464)

Henry Lyons, Humorous Speaker
Former Alabama DT Director/Senior Adults
Alabama Senior Adult Consultant

Jan Halford, ventriloquist, musician and author

*Cost: \$10 (includes lunch if registered by October 27)
\$5 payable at the door (lunch will not be provided)*

*LifeWay Christian Store displays, goodie bags
Antebellum Home tour after 2:30 p.m.*

*For more info contact: Glenn Shows, 601-292-3373 or
1-800-748-1651, MBCB Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.*



Pray this day for...

April 4 - 17, 2003

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Let Jesus Christ conquer you before breakfast, and you will be the conqueror of the circumstances of the day."

The Quiet Time by J.D.C. Anderson

Pray for the Ashenika Strategy Group's Peruvian partner, Pastor R., who will be leaving the pastorate to work among the Ashenika people of Peru. He has a deep love for the Ashenika and desire to see them saved. Pray that the Lord will provide the financial resources he and his family need.

For: (1) Cooperative Program Day (MS Emphasis), (2) Remember the manager of a coffee shop with whom Serb Team members in Southern Europe were able to share the gospel. Pray that he would remain open and that he would find his way to a true relationship with the Father.

For: (1) Bible Drills, Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Bible Drills, Temple BC (West Campus), Hattiesburg, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (3) State Ministry Assistants' Conference, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 10 a.m., 7th - 4 p.m., 8th (P/LD).

Pray that a Baptist Church in Portugal which has just begun talking/praying about starting a ministry among the deaf can start it soon. The pastor recently went to Brazil where he visited a deaf church and became convicted that they should have a ministry to the many deaf in the suburb near his church.

For: (1) Bible Drills, Salem Heights BC, Laurel, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Praise God that A. had the courage to witness to a local traditional healer (and spirit medium) near Lake Chicamba in Mozambique, who accepted Christ. Pray that this man will grow in his faith, and that A. will continue to disciple him.

Ron Pendley is a church planter in a multiethnic area of Omaha, Neb. Pray for the new church as they disciple new believers and strengthen the small group ministry. Pray for vision as they plan outreach activities.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS 9th - 11th; (2) Pray that new believers among the Mokole of Benin will be obedient to God's Word. May each of them share His free gift of salvation with others. Pray that each believer will then, in turn, disciple those who accept this free gift.

China reports the number of drug addicts in 1999 as 681,000, up from 148,000 in 1991. Pray for these addicts to find freedom in Christ.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Gulfport, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Bible Drills, Hernando BC, Hernando, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (3) Thank the Lord that the much-prayed-for discipleship materials for Muslim-background believers in Central Asia have been printed and ready for distribution. Pray that the material will be effective for all believers who receive it.

Ask God to give His strength and comfort to each of our missionaries and their families in this time of war. Pray that they might continue to show the love of God to those around them.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Starkville, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Bible Drills, FBC, Columbus, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (3) Young Musicians' Adjudication, FBC, Clinton, 7:00 p.m. (CM); (4) Leadership Training Conference, Gulfshore, 7:00 p.m., 4th - 10:30 a.m., 6th (CLGM)

For: (1) Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WMU); (2) J. is a party member and teacher at a mega-city college in East Asia. J. has begun asking spiritually probing questions. Pray that the Holy Spirit would overcome J.'s belief in atheism and reveal to him the Way, the Truth and the Life.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Clinton, 1-4 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Bible Drills, FBC, Madison, 9 a.m. - noon (D&FM); (3) Young Musicians' Festival, Mississippi College, Clinton, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. (CM); (4) Pray that God would protect the men and women serving in our armed forces.

For: (1) State Speakers' Tournament, Alta Woods BC, Jackson, 10 a.m. - noon (D&FM); (2) State Selection Tournament, Alta Woods BC, Jackson, noon - 3 p.m. (D&FM); (3) Mississippi Missionary Fellowship, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WMU); (4) Pray that Christians in Iraq will be protected and provided with new freedoms to share their faith boldly.

Singles Resolution

Friday, May 16, 7-9 p.m.

Morrison Heights Baptist Church
Clinton

Al Fike

Impersonator, Humorist from Texas

Cost: \$5 at the door

Singles Resolution Coffee House

Saturday, April 26, 6-9 p.m.

Ridgecrest Baptist Church
Madison

Cost: \$5 at the door
Coffee, soft drinks,
hors d'oeuvres

Gene Fortenberry
Musical guest

Music and
lots of fun

J.J. Jasper
Humorist, AFR
Tupelo

For more info contact: Glenn Shows, 601-292-3373
or 1-800-748-1651, MBCB Discipleship & Family
Ministry Dept.

Please take a moment to drop a birthday greeting and word of encouragement to our Missionary Kids!

- 3-86 MR. JOEL T. MARTIN
Parents: William & Cynthia Martin, Strategy
- 3-86 MISS LAUREN E. MCCALL
Parents: Dennis & Margaret McCall, Agriculture
- 6-86 MISS CHARISSA B. HEARON
Parents: Thomas & Bonnie Hearon
Student Evangelism
- 15-79 MR. JASON D. HENDRICKS
Parents: Larry D. & Mary W. Hendricks
General Evangelism
- 18-83 MR. ROSS E. KYZAR
Parents: John Russell & Melinda Kyzar
Strategy
- 24-97 MR. LUCAS W. BRASWELL
Parents: Larry & Alicia Braswell
General Evangelism
- 26-89 MR. LAWRENCE W. BRASWELL, II
Parents: Larry & Alicia Braswell
General Evangelism
- 28-89 MISS CHARISSA L. FORTENBERRY
Parents: Robert & Margaret Fortenberry
General Evangelism
- 30-82 MR. KYLE P. MARTIN
Parents: William & Cynthia Martin, Strategy



JUNE

For security, cards will be
forwarded.
Please send all to:

Child's name and parent's name
MBCB Stewardship Dept.
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

House committee passes partial-birth ban

WASHINGTON (BP) — A U.S. House of Representatives committee has forwarded legislation outlawing a gruesome method known commonly as partial-birth abortion.

The House Judiciary Committee voted 19-11 March 26 for the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act, H.R. 760. The vote was along party lines, with Republicans in the majority.

The full House is expected to pass the legislation easily, which bars a procedure that involves the killing of a nearly totally delivered baby usually in the fifth or sixth month of pregnancy.

The Senate approved a similar bill March 13 by a 64-33 margin. President Bush has urged Congress to send him

such a ban and has promised to sign it into law.

The House version does not include a measure added to the Senate bill on the floor. Senators voted 52-46 for a nonbonding resolution affirming the 1973 Supreme Court opinion legalizing abortion, in effect, throughout all stages of pregnancy and for unlimited reasons. The measure, offered by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, expressed the Senate's belief that *Roe v. Wade* "was appropriate and secures an important constitutional right," and should not be reversed.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called the House committee's vote "the second in a series of

significant steps in the struggle to reassert the sanctity-of-life ethic upon which this nation was founded. ... [W]e have been assured that the Harkin amendment will be stripped from the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act in conference committee, before final approval by the Congress."

Partial-birth abortion typically involves the delivery of an intact baby feet first until only the head is left in the birth canal. The doctor pierces the base of the baby's skull with surgical scissors, then inserts a catheter into the opening and suctions out the brain.

Twice before, Congress approved bans on the procedure only to have them vetoed by President Clinton. In both 1996 and 1998, the House

achieved the two-thirds majorities necessary to override vetoes, but the Senate consistently fell short.

In 2000, the Supreme Court overturned a state law patterned after the federal ban. The high court voted 5-4 to strike down a Nebraska ban on partial-birth abortion, one of 27 state laws patterned after the federal legislation.

Congressional supporters of the ban authored a new version that seeks to address the court's contention the Nebraska law could have been interpreted to cover other abortion methods, as well as the justices' declaration the ban needed an exception for maternal health reasons.

SBC messenger cards now available

Messenger cards for the 2003 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 17-18 in Phoenix, Arizona, are now available from the Office of the Executive Director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). Cooperating Mississippi Baptist churches that plan to send messengers to the meeting can request the cards by contacting the MBCB executive director's office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbox@mbcb.org. Messengers cards will be sent only to churches that request cards. For more information, contact the executive director's office as listed above.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Port Gibson Church, Port Gibson, ordained Michael McKnight into the ministry on Feb. 16. Pictured (from left) are McKnight, Paul Jones, and Ronnie Hynum.

First Church, Polkville, ordained Willie Carr (2002), Bobby Bradshaw (2001), Reggie Thorne (2001), and Ricky Myers (2002) as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Carr, Bradshaw, Max Price, pastor, Thorne, and Myers.

Holly Springs Church, Brookhaven, ordained Tommy Franklin, Lafayette McDavid, Elton Smith, and John Curtis Smith as deacons on Feb. 16.

Pictured (from left) are Harold McLendon, Glen McInnis, pastor, McDavid, Franklin, Smith, Smith, and Malcomn Massey.

Ingram Church, Baldwin, recognized Gene Gamble on March 9 for his years of faithful service. Gamble has served as a

deacon, Sunday School teacher, and clerk during his years at Ingram. The church presented a plaque and the Prentiss County Board of Supervisors presented a resolution recognizing his naval service, service as a rural mail carrier, and exemplary citizen. Charlie Ransier, pastor, made the presentation to Gamble.



Carr, Bradshaw, Max Price, pastor; Thorne & Myers



McLendon, McInnis, pastor; McDavid, Franklin, Smith, Smith, and Massey



Ransier, pastor & Gamble



McKnight, Jones, and Hynum

1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages. Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.

WA Wellington Associates, Inc.

Blue Mountain College
Alumnae Banquet Fundraiser



Return to the Golden Age of Radio
April 10, 2003 @ 7 p.m.
Ray Dining Hall
For Reservations or Information
Call (662) 685-4771 Ext. 131
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Stevens Dormitory.

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BAX FA NRAI FCO FUKOG
AT FCO GOPGARG,
ICUHC FCO SPFCOT
CPFC YXF UR
CUG AIR YAIOT.

PHFG ARO:GOJOR

Clue: Q=Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew 20:28

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Grace, Decatur: April 7-9; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, evangelist; Betty Sue Chaney, music; Richard Ethridge, pastor.

Airport, Grenada: May 4; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish meal, noon; Truman Scarborough, director of missions, preaching; all are welcome.

Fairhaven, Olive Branch: April 13-16; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Desi Ginn, preaching; Lemoyne Brigrance, music; all are welcome.

Grace Southern, Calhoun City: April 27-30; Sunday, Edward and Jean Pendergrast Day, 10:45 a.m., covered dish lunch, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Edward Pendergrast, evangelist; Jean Sharpe, music director; Jimmie Nell, musician.

Society Hill, Oakvale: April 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Messer and Bill Nobels, preaching; Tommy Broom, pastor.

Cedarview, Olive Branch: April 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on grounds, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Earl Barron,

Ripley, evangelist; Stephen Womack, music.

Trinity, Laurel: April 13-16; New Life For You; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Hardy Denham, interim pastor, Sonny Adkins, evangelism director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Johnny Walker, First, Winona, and Jim Futral, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, preaching; Paul Padgett, Magee, music.

Crosby, Crosby: April 6; Cletus McCurley, Gloster, speaker; Gospel Revelations, Natchez, music; a luncheon will be held at noon; all are invited.

Valley Grove, Pontotoc: April 6-10; Johnny Sykes, evangelist; John Shakerford, pastor.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The Mississippi College Shakespeare Festival opens with A Midsummer Night's Dream in Aven Little Theater, Mississippi College, April 3-8 at 7 p.m. nightly and 2 p.m. on Sunday. The Tribal Players will present Lunch with Shakespeare at the Trace Point Assisted Living and Retirement Community in Clinton on April 11 at 1 p.m. For more information, call (601) 926-1224. They will also present A Saturday with Shakespeare at the Manship House Museum on April 12 at 1 p.m. For more information, call (601) 961-4724. Shakespeare's Birthday party will honor the Bard with cake and wassail on April 23 at 11:30 a.m. on the B.C. Rogers Patio, Mississippi College. The final Shakespeare offering, The Rustics v. the Thespians, will be at the Clinton Brick Streets Festival on April 26 at 1 p.m. on the performing arts stage.

The Mississippi College Singers were chosen as the college choir to represent Mississippi

at State Day at the Washington National Cathedral on April 27. There will be a special reception for all the Mississippi guests following the concert.

The Blue Mountain College Chorale will be taking their concert tour from April 9-13. Larry W. Newell is the concert director and June Meyer serves as accompanist. For more information or for concert sites, call (662) 685-4771, Ext. 163.

William Carey College will hold the annual minister's golf tournament May 19-20 at the Canebrake Golf Course, Hattiesburg. If you would like to participate or for more information, call (800) 962-5991, Ext. 115.

William Carey College on the Coast will offer a master's degree in nursing beginning in August. Applications are now being accepted for the fall term, and admission decisions will be made in May. For more information, call (228) 897-7208.

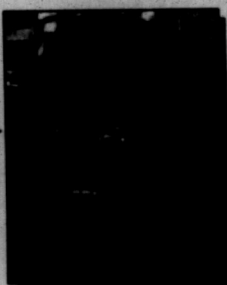
STAFF CHANGES



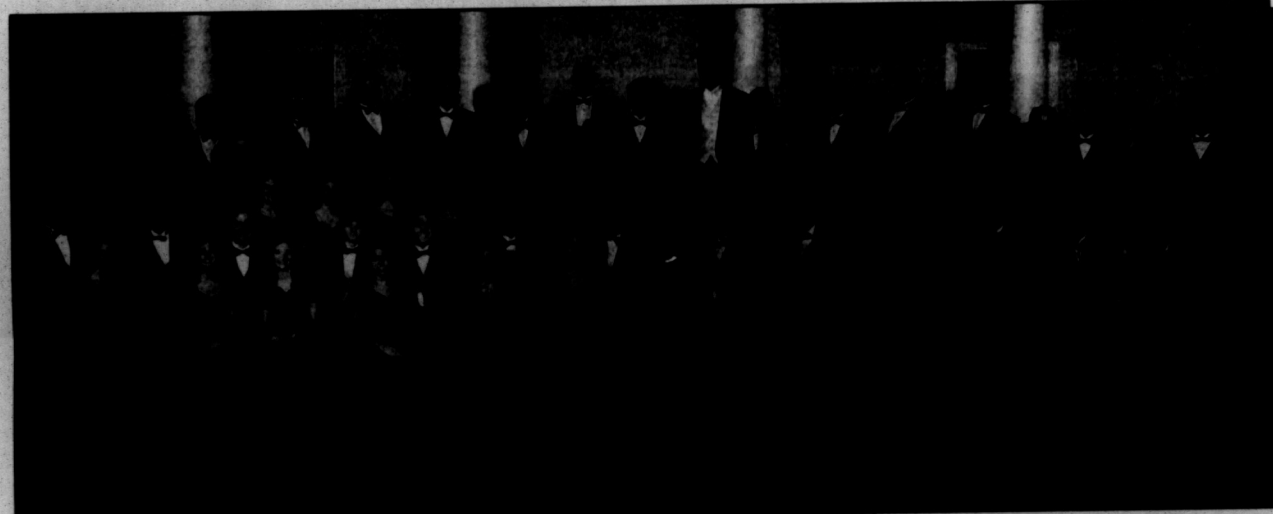
McKnight and his family come from Baker, La.

Port Gibson Church, Port Gibson, has called Michael McKnight as pastor and music director. McKnight

Harmontown Church, Como, has called Dianna Parker as music director. A reception was held in their honor on Mar. 23.



Parker



Mississippi College Singers



Blue Mountain College Chorale

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Light of the World

John 8:12; 9:1-7, 35-41

By Lori Clendinning

This week's lesson focuses on one of Jesus' sayings as part of a seven-week theme titled "Who Are You, Jesus?" The seven lessons were designed to give a better understanding of who Jesus is, lead others to believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord, and help believers live faithfully with His presence and provision.

The study theme's four goals include instruction how to: 1) testify through our faith and worship that Jesus is God, 2) appreciate and strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ, 3) live confidently as a believer in view of Christ's promise of resurrection and eternal life, and 4) trust Jesus daily to provide

for our needs. This week's lesson focuses on John 8:12 where Jesus proclaimed Himself to be the Light of the World.

At a time when Jesus' identity and purpose were causing serious divisions among the Jewish people and leaders, Jesus visited Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles and began to teach in the temple courtyards. During the feast the lights of the large, golden temple candelabra were lit to symbolize two things: 1) that the temple was the moral and spiritual center of the world, and 2) the pillar of fire that guided Moses and the Israelites during their wilderness journey. These lights



Clendinning

were extinguished on the eighth day of the feast, and Jesus chose this heightened moment to declare that He was "The Light of the World."

In John 8:56-59, Jesus continued to assert His deity by saying that He existed before Abraham's time, and that Abraham himself had yearned to see Jesus' coming, thus causing the Jews to want to stone Jesus for blasphemy. Jesus declared that He not only brings light into the world, but that He is the Light of the World and that those who follow Him will never have to walk in spiritual darkness.

In a secular worldview, Jesus is primarily viewed as the human founder of one of the world's major religions. In this view, the biblical teaching that Jesus is truly God who came to earth as a human being to save people from sin is considered a

made-up, mythical story and rejected as not having relevance for people's lives today. Most secular-minded people do not think they have any compelling need to decide one way or another about Jesus. Some Christians have been influenced by this worldview and question the validity of the biblical teaching that Jesus is truly God.

Jesus summons people to believe in Him as the One who reveals the truth and gives them life. Picture yourself within a darkened room. First, you grope about for the wall light switch. Finding none, you cast your eyes about the dim room, trying to find a lamp or flashlight to turn on. Finally, you find there is a window upon which is a room-darkening roller-type window shade. With a tug, the roller window shade goes up and light enters the room.

So it is with Jesus. We grope about in this world's darkness, flipping powerless switches and stumbling

around in our pathetic search for any light source that will grant illumination. Just like that roller window shade, salvation through Jesus, as our true light source, is available to us when we turn to Him and, by faith, let in the light.

For some of us, the tug we give sends that roller window shade flying up to the window casing and the full light comes blasting into our lives. For others of us, the window shade rolls up slowly and deliberately; the light enters the room little by little. Either way, the light enters and immediately dispels the darkness.

Jesus is that light in our lives, causing some of us to rapidly blink against the harshness of His light that fully shines upon our former darkness. Others of us are granted time to slowly adjust our eyes to the impact of the light as it chases away sin's darkness.

Clendinning is member of First Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Guard Against Worldly Influences

I Kings 11:1-43

By Harold Simmons

Introduction: Waldenstrom's Disease is one of the most insidious of all cancers. The disease is rare, only 79 people out of a million contract this cancer which is incurable. You do not hurt or feel bad. You do not have symptoms, which are flags for doctors, until you are in very deep trouble. The disease is like many things of the world that attract/attack the godly person and distract him/her from the commitment they have made to the Lord. This is exactly what happened to Solomon. Everything in his life was going well until he began to do things that the Lord had expressly said the Israelite should not do — marry a non-Jewish person or have other gods before Him.

Endangering

One's

Commitment (I Kings 11:1-3): Heretofore, everything we have read about Solomon has been in the superlative. Now we enter a dark time in his life. The NIV says, "King Solomon, however, loved ..." (v.1) The Hebrew (and the King James) seems to me to be a little more pointed: "But King Solomon loved..." The Hebrew Bible seems to be saying that everything was fine to this point and then uses the word "but." That word is often used today in our speech to emphatically point out a problem. For example: "You look great in that suit, but a very light-weight suit is not what you will need to wear in the Arctic." These marriages looked really great for Solomon's foreign policy strategy. His marriages included women from the south (Egypt), southeast (Moabites and Edomites), east



Simmons

(Ammonites), northwest (Sidonites), and throughout Caanan (Hittites). These multiple marriages helped establish peace and trade treaties with the fathers (kings) of these women.

Political success does not signal spiritual success. In this case it was the opposite. At least twice in the Old Testament, God prohibited such marriages (foreign) for spiritual reasons. Even in the face of the warning and prohibition that God gave, Solomon "held fast to his foreign wives in love," with a strong emotional attachment.

Having many wives was a very visible display of wealth, but the greatest problem was that he allowed them to lead his heart astray. Through the strong attachment, they were able to get Solomon to build shrines to their gods. We are to be friends with people whose lifestyle and orientation is to this world in order to help them trust the life-changing Jesus Christ. We must be on our guard against letting our

friendships change our commitment to the Lord.

Losing One's Commitment (I Kings 11: 4-8): We are told that we should "train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." However, for Solomon it was the reverse. "As Solomon grew old his wives turned his heart after other gods" (v. 4a). Twice in this verse we see the word heart used. This is talking about the inner most part of a person — the mind, emotion, and will. Solomon was half-heartedly trying to serve God and the gods of his wives. The writer then compares Solomon with his father David, who was his example. David was not perfect, but he retained his commitment to the Lord.

Verse 5 allows that Solomon still worshiped God but that was an "also." His religion became a mixture of many religions. Solomon's actions of not keeping his commitment to the Lord became an evil in God's eyes (v. 6). When we allow anything to keep us from our

commitment to serve God and Him alone, that becomes an evil in God's eyes.

(It is interesting to note that the hill upon which Solomon built the shrines became known in II Kings 23:13 as the "Hill of Corruption." In Jesus' day it was known as the Mount of Olives.)

Paying the Price (I Kings 11: 9-13): Solomon's actions did not go unnoticed by God. For his sins, Solomon paid the price of having the kingdom divided. God kept his promise of having a descendant of David upon the throne, but that kingdom would be much smaller than under David or Solomon.

God was angry with Solomon because not only had Solomon broken the commands of God, he had broken the covenant with God. The Lord does not take lightly breaches of our promises and commitments to Him. Sure God will forgive us, but we will bear the scars for our disobedience. The blessings of obedience are more desirable than the terrible costs of disobedience.

Simmons is the pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

December 16-31, 2002

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PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



Living

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JIMMY PORTER,

LEE YANCY,

RENE WOOD,

SPORTS RAGE!!! BY JIMMY PORTER

It's that time of the year! In a few weeks the old familiar cry, "Play Ball," will be heard around the sandlots and plush playing fields of America. Spring and Summer usher in opportunities for 33 million boys and girls to showcase their athletic skills before parents, grandparents, and friends. A good time is to be had by all. At least, that is the way it is supposed to be.

In the past few years a new phenomenon has been taking place in epidemic proportions. If you have attended very many youth sporting events, you have witnessed it. Sports rage, misbehavior during sporting events, has become a major problem for those promoting children and youth activities. It is not the kids misbehaving; it is the adults.

Here is what is happening on the playing fields:

- A Pennsylvania midget football game ended in a brawl involving over 100 fans, parents, players, and coaches.

- A Florida soccer referee suffered a broken nose after he was head-butted by the angry coach of a team of 13-year-olds.

- In Oklahoma, a coach had to be restrained after choking a 15-year-old umpire who was making a few extra dollars umpiring a tee-ball game for 5- and 6-year-olds (www.gazettearchives.com).

- A 10-year-old Florida boy who dropped a football pass had both arms broken by his 34-year-old coach (www.abcnews.go.com).

Most observers now believe this type of behavior is filtering

down to the kids. After watching their parents parade the sidelines yelling and screaming at the coaches, umpires and opposing players, they often become more aggressive. The Associated Press has cited these examples:

- A 17-year-old kicked a coach and injured an opposing player with a kick to the head, who was so hurt that he was out for the rest of the season and continued to see a neurologist for six weeks.

- A judge gave jail time to a basketball player for assaulting another player, elbowing him in the face, resulting in a broken

end our game because the grownups couldn't act any better" (www.abcnews.go.com).

The rowdiness and uncivilized behavior of fans has become all too common at all team sporting events. Homer Booth, a deputy sheriff, was hospitalized after a Clemson and South Carolina football game. He suffered a broken collarbone, broken ribs, and a heel

imprint on his forehead (USA Today, 11/26/02). More recently, two high school students brawled with security officials at the Mississippi High School state basketball finals. Ironically, a local journalist suggested it would not have happened if more security had been present. Whatever happened to "acting your age" and doing what authorities ask of you?

In our culture we have arrived at a "win at all costs" mentality. We have and are raising a generation of kids that believe they can have what they want whenever they want it. People and their rights do not matter. This attitude has prompted Fred Engh, president of National Alliance for Youth Sports, to say, "The only way we're going to stop incidents like these from occurring is if we require parents and volunteers go through training and ethics orientation before we allow them to coach our children and use park and recreational facilities" (www.abcnews.go.com). It is no longer a matter of teaching kids the skills to play ball. It is becoming necessary to teach adults how to behave.

As Christians this ought not to be so with any of us. We are to be the "light of the world and the salt of the earth."

What are we teaching 10-year-olds when they hear coaches using offensive language, practicing unethical game tactics, and then berating children if they make a mistake? Are we not teaching our young people to disrespect authority when we sit in the stands and scream at the officials who are calling the games?

Last year one governor in the Northeast signed legislation to help reduce "sports rage" at youth events. The new law increases penalties for parents and coaches found guilty of committing assaults at games while children are present. Penalties will be charged from a simple assault to an aggravated assault punishable by up to 18 months in prison and \$10,000 in fines (www.keansburgyouth.com).

Bobby Dodd, President and CEO of the Amateur Athletic Union, remarked, "Parents need to understand that it's just a game and your child will make mistakes. Be positive, don't criticize, and never disagree with the coach or referee in front of your child. When your team wins, or when your team loses, or when the official makes a call, or when your child doesn't play well, or when your child does play well, be positive and provide encouragement. These are the things the child should and will remember." (Ibid.)

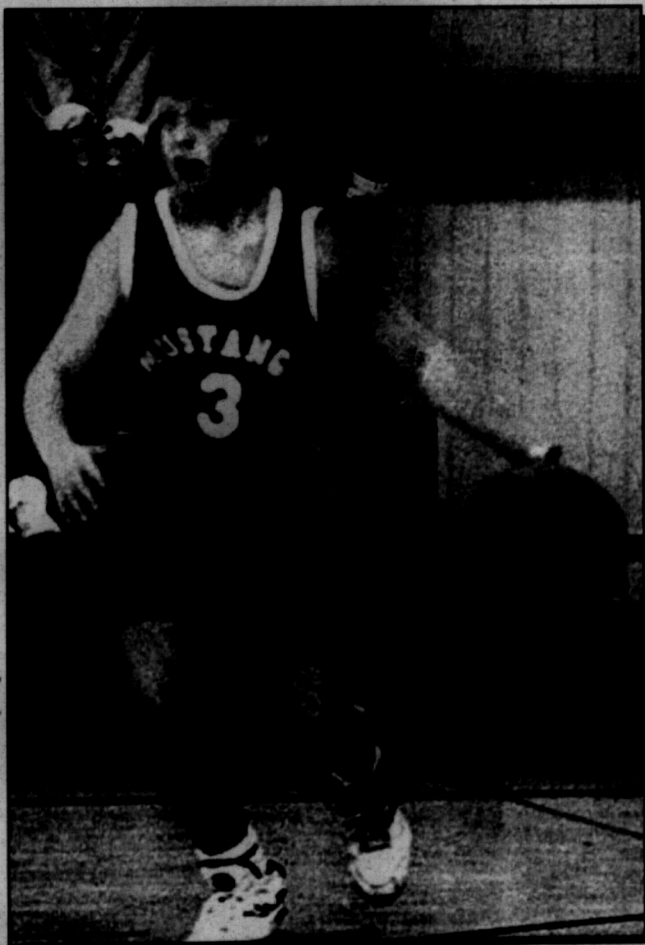
Remember these things as you go out to the ballpark to "root" for your special little player. First, it is just a game and in a few days, no

one even remembers the score. Second, it is all about the kids having fun and it is not about how well some adult coaches or some official referees. Third, our behavior will have a far greater impact on their lives than we could ever imagine. Therefore, it is best that we behave and "do unto others as we would have them do unto us." We represent Christ at the football field, baseball diamond, basketball gym, and soccer stadium. He, too, is a spectator as He watches you and me.

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action Commission updates via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at rwwood@mbcb.org. Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.



Porter



MISSIONS NOW WEEKEND

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